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For immediate release

Sister Barbara Reid, OP Elected First Woman President of Catholic Theological Union by Board of Trustees

CHICAGO – November 15, 2020. At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago on November 12, 2020, Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, was elected to the presidency of CTU. In accepting the post, she succeeds the Rev. Mark R. Francis, CSV, who is retiring from the office on December 31, 2020. Fr. Francis served as the president of CTU for seven years. Sr. Barbara will be the first woman religious to be president of CTU, one of the country's foremost graduate schools of theology and ministry.

Her historic appointment responds to the Church's growing recognition of the vital contribution of women to the life of the church, a contribution reflected as well in the recent appointment of women to key leadership roles in the Archdiocese of Chicago such as Sally Blount, the newly appointed head of Catholic Charities. As Cardinal Blase Cupich noted: "Sr. Barbara has distinguished herself as an expert administrator but also as a first-rate scholar who has deepened our understanding of the Word of God in today's diverse and challenging world."

In accepting the presidency of CTU, Sister Barbara noted, "I have a deep love of CTU and a passionate desire to see it continue to thrive. It is an understatement to say that we are facing changes in our world and church of a kind and magnitude that are unprecedented. But with the expertise of CTU's Board of Trustees, the commitment of the Corporation, along with our extraordinary faculty, dedicated and skilled staff and formation directors, amazing students, and myriad friends and supporters, we are well equipped to be a transformative force in the Church and world, witnessing to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace in these new circumstances."

The Rev. James Halstead, OSA, chair of the CTU Board of Trustees said, "I'm excited that Sr. Barbara has accepted the presidency of CTU. She is an excellent leader and has a unique background that will help to lead the school into the next decade. As the first woman religious to lead CTU – a union of twenty-four men's religious orders – Sr. Barbara's leadership is an important statement of CTU's commitment to Vatican II and the vision of Pope Francis." Current president, Fr. Francis said, "I have known and respected Sr. Barbara Reid since we came on the Faculty of

CTU together in 1988. I'm fully confident that she will help lead CTU into a new future. I know that CTU is in good hands."

President-elect Sr. Barbara Reid is a Dominican Sister of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and has been a member of the faculty of Catholic Theological Union since 1988 where she also served as Vice President and Academic Dean from 2009-2018. She is widely respected as a leading biblical scholar in the United States, particularly for her work in feminist biblical interpretation. Prof. Reid has been actively involved in the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada, including service for two terms on their Board of Directors. She is also past President of the Catholic Biblical Association. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including an honorary doctorate from the University of Graz, Austria, induction into the Aquinas College Hall of Fame, the Yves Congar Award for Theological Excellence from Barry University, the St. Martin DePorres Award from the Southern Province of Dominican Friars, the Jerome Award from the Catholic Library Association of America, the Theological Award for Distinguished Women Theologians from the College of Mount St. Joseph, and the Sophia Award from Washington Theological Union.

More information can be found at ctu.edu/presidentsearch.

About Catholic Theological Union: Catholic Theological Union is a leading Roman Catholic graduate school of theology in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. Its mission is to prepare effective leaders for the Church, ready to witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace. CTU's more than 4,000 vowed religious women and men and lay graduates are serving in 60 countries worldwide.

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